

permanent naval college has been established, where the necessary instruction is imparted. The captain of the college was appointed on the recommendation of the British Admiralty, and other officers for the instruction of the cadets were nominated by the Admiralty. A site has been chosen for the college at Captain's Point, Jervis Bay. It will be equipped with all necessary workshops, machinery, etc. In order to expedite the training of officers, a temporary college was established at Geelong, and opened on 1st March, 1913. In May of that year the Cadet roll was 32. It is intended that there shall be interchangeability with the Royal Navy of officers and men, and also of ships. The British Admiralty invited tenders for the *Australia* in January, 1910. The first portion of the keel was laid on 23rd June, 1910, and she was launched on 25th October, 1911. The vessel will be commissioned in June, 1913, arriving in Australian waters in August. The ship is of the *Dreadnought* type, *Indomitable* class, about 19,200 tons, with turbine engines. Her speed is 26 knots, her armament eight 12-inch and sixteen 4-inch guns, and five torpedo tubes. She has an 8-inch armour belt amidships, and a 4-inch belt at the ends. The estimated total cost of the vessel is £1,800,000. The smaller cruisers, the *Melbourne* and *Sydney*, have been constructed in Great Britain. The keel of the *Sydney* was laid on 11th of February, 1911, that of the *Melbourne* on 4th April following. The *Melbourne* was launched at Birkenhead on 30th May, 1912, and arrived in Australian waters in March, 1913. The *Sydney* has also been launched, and is expected to arrive in August, 1913. These vessels are of 5400 tons displacement, armed with 6-inch guns, and costing about £450,000 each. The third cruiser, the *Brisbane*, is being built at the Commonwealth dockyard, Sydney. The keel has been laid, and the work is proceeding. The two submarines are being built in England, and it is anticipated that the vessels will be delivered late in 1913. Pending completion of the *Brisbane*, the *Encounter* has been lent from the Royal Navy for service in the Royal Australian Navy. The Admiralty has also presented the Commonwealth Government with the Cruiser *Pioneer*. This vessel was taken over by the Naval Board on 1st March, 1913. On the completion of her refit, she will be recommissioned with the crew of the *Protector* (augmented as necessary) for service as a naval reserve training ship. The *Protector* will then be re-commissioned for service as a tender to the Gunnery School.

(iii.) *Naval Reserves.* The naval reserves comprise (a) members of the Australian branch of the Royal Naval Reserve, (b) members of the Citizen naval forces, and (c) Senior naval cadets. The navy has first choice from amongst the trainees under the compulsory system.

(iv.) *Visit and Report by Sir Reginald Henderson.* At the invitation of the Government, Admiral Sir Reginald Henderson visited Australia to advise upon the best position for a central naval base, and the works necessary to make it effective; the positions for secondary bases for the service of a fleet, and their equipment for service in naval operations; also upon the location and character of the training schools for preparing personnel for the Australian naval service. The Admiral was also requested to report and advise on any other naval matters upon which he might care to express an opinion, and generally, in regard to all the measures to be taken in the formation of a fleet. After an inspection of various harbours, the Admiral propounded a scheme which he embodied in a report to the Government in March, 1911. It provides 52 vessels and 15,000 men; expenditure on construction, works, &c., £40,000,000, with an ultimate annual naval vote of £4,794,000. Six naval bases, and eleven sub-bases, are recommended.

The 52 vessels of the completed fleet would be divided into Eastern and Western divisions, and consist of 8 armoured cruisers, 10 protected cruisers, 18 destroyers, 12 submarines, 3 depot ships, and 1 fleet repair-ship, the building of which would extend over 22 years. The personnel for this fleet, fully manned, would be about 15,000. Of the £23,290,000 initial cost of construction, the Commonwealth is already committed to

£3,500,000. The annual cost of *personnel* would be £601,000 in 1913-14, and would increase to £2,226,000 in 1933-4. Annual cost of maintenance of ships in commission would be £262,000 in 1913-4, rising to £1,226,000 in 1933-4. Annual expenditure on construction and maintenance of ships would increase from £2,349,000 in 1913-4 to £4,824,000 in 1932-3. The strength of the fleet would be 23 ships in 1918, 42 ships in 1923, 48 ships in 1928, and 52 ships in 1933. In the earlier years most of the crews would be obtained from Great Britain, but this would cease in the period 1923-8. A system of "wireless" stations is recommended, as well as the establishment of naval reserves, the erection of barracks, and the institution of a naval college.

(v.) *Proposals for Expansion.* The Australian Government has generally adopted Admiral Henderson's report, and naval expansion is proceeding generally on the lines therein laid down. In some important respects, however, departures will be made. It has been announced that it is the Government's intention to proceed with the construction of a second battle cruiser, thus anticipating by some years the Admiral's recommendation. In the matter of bases the report is concurred in, and action is being taken for the establishment of the various naval bases and sub-bases required for the fleet unit, work having already begun. All the seagoing ships of the fleet will have "wireless" installed. Recruiting centres have been opened, with excellent results.

(vi.) A vessel (*Sobraon*) purchased from the Government of New South Wales, has been fitted up as a boys' naval training ship (*Tingira*), and was commissioned on 25th April, 1912. The full capacity of the ship is 300, of whom 100 started training on 1st June, 1912, and others later. The age of entry is 14½ to 16 years, and the boys must engage to serve until they reach the age of 25. Upon medical certification of fitness, they are to be entered for service in the Royal Australian Navy. It is intended that the boys shall provide the *personnel* of the new fleet unit, 45 having already been transferred to the *Melbourne*. The training ship is thus a very important part of the new scheme. The strength of trainees in May, 1913, was 205.

(vii.) *Strength of the Commonwealth Naval Forces, 1913.* The following table shews the strength of the naval forces in February, 1913:—

**STRENGTH OF THE NAVAL FORCES (PERMANENT AND RESERVES),
1st FEBRUARY, 1913.**

Description of Force.	Number Borne.		Total.
	Officers and Men.	Cadets.	
Permanent*	2,102	...	2,102
Administrative and Instructional Staff ...	134	...	134
Reserves†	811	...	811
Reserves‡	3,847	3,847
Total	3,047	3,847	6,894
Navy Office personnel	70
Grand total	6,964

* Seagoing.

† Late Militia.

‡ Universal Trainees.

(viii.) *Ships of the Royal Australian Navy.* The following table shews the vessels of the Royal Australian Navy, completed and building:—